

creative spirit and her willingness to experiment with new ideas and techniques to better foment mathematics concepts in the minds of her students. Patricia's compassion for others is exhibited by her thoughtfulness towards both students and teachers.

Ben Geesa came to the Newton School Corporation 27 years ago, after serving his country in the United States Air Force. Since technology plays a vital role in the world and the economy, Ben was instrumental in starting the first computer education classes at North Newton High School. Ben is known as the computer "guru" throughout the corporation, as he helps to troubleshoot computer problems. His peers know him as a dedicated teacher and he is a continuous source of enthusiasm for his students as well as his co-workers.

Kay Harness is a fine example of the tenets embodied by those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's youth. Kay hails from the Tri-Creek School Corporation, where she has greeted her students and colleagues with a genuine smile for over 33 years. She has been active in all aspects of the school environment and has given continued support to the Parent Teacher Organization. Kay strives to be approachable and communicates well with administrators, fellow teachers, students, and parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2001–2002 Crystal Apple Award. The years of hard work they have put forth in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people is a true inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, due to a loss in the family, during the week of May 6 through May 10 I was in California and unable to cast a vote on Rollcall votes 127 through 158. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall votes 127–133, Aye; Rollcall 134, No; Rollcalls 135 & 136, Aye; Rollcalls 137–141, No; Rollcall 142, Aye; Rollcalls 143–152, No; Rollcalls 153–156, Aye; Rollcall 157, No; Rollcall 158, Aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on Thursday May 9, 2002 during consideration of H.R. 4546.

Rollcall 138 Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 139 Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 140 Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 141 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Markey) Nay.

Rollcall 142 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Weldon) Yea.

Rollcall 143 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 144 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 145 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Tierney) Nay.

Rollcall 146 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 147 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 148 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 149 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 150 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 151 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 152 On Motion that the Committee Rise Nay.

Rollcall 153 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Sanchez) Nay.

Rollcall 154 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Goode) Yea.

Rollcall 155 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Paul) Yea.

Rollcall 156 On Agreeing to the Amendment (Bereuter) Yea.

Rollcall 157 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions Nay.

Rollcall 158 On Passage Yea.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of a resolution I introduced to honor and recognize older Americans who continue to contribute valued work experience to their home communities. As you know, May is Older Americans Month, and as such it provides us with a perfect opportunity to reflect on the contributions of all of our nation's older Americans. I have been fortunate in my career to have a successful working relationship with the Experience Works organization, formerly known as Green Thumb, which has a Staffing Service office located in my Congressional district. I have seen the great work they accomplish in encouraging senior citizens to stay active and involved in their communities by continuing to work or simply by mentoring younger workers. Therefore, I have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 407, to recognize these contributions of effort and active involvement on the part of our older Americans. It is a pleasure to honor America's seniors this month for their continued interest and enthusiasm in contributing to the American workforce. I urge my distinguished colleagues to support H. Res. 407 to honor our hard working older Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act. My bill would expand Medicare eligibility for uninsured patients with chronic kidney disease before their condition advances to End-Stage status. The bill would provide access to healthcare and most importantly disease management and End Stage Renal Disease-prevention services (ESRD). It would improve the quality of life for those suffering from kidney disease and could provide real savings for the Medicare program by helping chronic kidney disease patients avoid or delay the costly dialysis treatments and kidney transplants associated with the end stage status of the disease.

ESRD patients are the only group eligible for Medicare enrollment due to their medical diagnosis. ESRD is characterized by a permanent loss of kidney function, which results in the need for weekly dialysis treatments to cleanse impurities from the blood. ESRD patients are subject to a 30-month waiting period following diagnosis before Medicare benefits begin, which leads to further deterioration of health prior to being able to access care under Medicare. The decline in health that occurs during this waiting period reinforces the need for disease management interventions to preserve maximum health and delay advancement of the illness. It is known that early diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease can prevent certain future complications including progression to end stage status and development of heart disease, a common outcome of kidney disease. By allowing this vulnerable population to access care during the 2 years prior to qualifying for Medicare due to an End Stage Renal Disease diagnosis, this bill wisely and appropriately addresses a critical unmet health need.

Under the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act, uninsured, pre-ESRD chronic kidney disease patients would be eligible for full Medicare coverage and ESRD prevention services. To be eligible, a physician would need to certify a chronic kidney disease patient as likely to need dialysis or a transplant in the next two years under accepted clinical standards. Individuals eligible under the bill would pay Medicare Part B premiums. Disease management and ESRD-prevention services provided by this legislation include counseling on treatment options, the viability of a kidney transplant, disease management, and nutrition. These new services would also be available to current Medicare enrollees who become diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

Today, more than 300,000 people receive dialysis. By 2010, it is expected that 650,000 individuals will be receiving weekly dialysis treatment. In 2001, Medicare spent \$14.4 billion to care for ESRD patients, which averages more than \$20,000 per member, which far exceeds the average 2001 Medicare expenditure for non-ESRD beneficiaries, \$6000.

The National Kidney Foundation, who has endorsed this bill, estimates that 20 million